

Annual Index 1997

American Journal of Nursing

The index is arranged in two sections, the Subject Index and the Author Index. Articles are entered under one or more subjects in the Subject section and under the names of authors in the Author section.

News items are indexed in the Subject Index under the names of the organizations or groups mentioned as well as under the subject of the news item.

Note: In addition to subject headings used in **Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)**, published by the National Library of Medicine, pertinent nursing headings in other health disciplines are used to make this index more useful and relevant.

Abbreviations used in this index are:

(BB)BestBooks	(IU)IssuesUpdate
(CA)CareerGuide	(LS)TheLegalSide
(CCP)CriticalCareProtocol	(ME)MedErrors
(CIP)CurrentsinPractice	(ND)NewDrugs
(CP)ClinicalProcedures	(NR)NursingRounds
(CS)ClinicalSavvy	(PC)PainControl
(DT)DiagnosticTests	(PCP)PrimaryCareProtocol
(DWD)DealingwithDeath	(PT)PatientTeaching
(E)Editorial	(R)Reflections
(ED)EthicalDilemmas	(RFP)ResearchforPractice
(HC)HomeCare	(SA)SubstanceAbuse
(IC)InfectionControl	(VS)VitalSigns

Issue months are abbreviated as shown below and followed by the page number:

January: Ja	April: Ap	July: Jl	October: Oc
February: Fe	May: My	August: Ag	November: No
March: Ma	June: Je	September: Se	December: De

Page numbers followed by a letter (16A, 18D) signify that the text appeared in a demographic edition of *AJN* sent only to certain subscribers.

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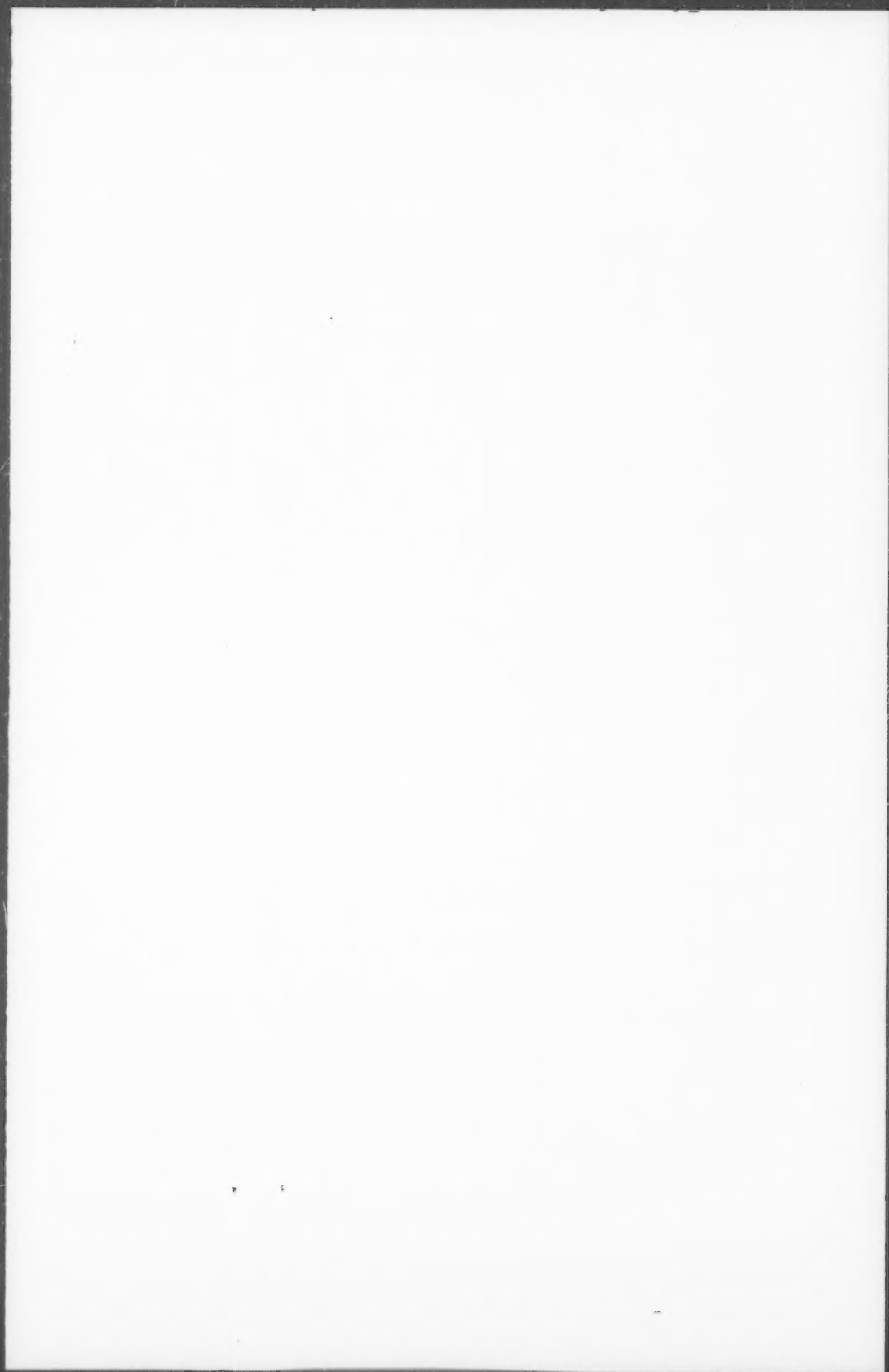
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Editorial: The Role of the Physician in the 21st Century

As the 21st century begins, the role of the physician is undergoing a profound transformation. The challenges facing the medical profession are unprecedented in scope and complexity. This editorial explores the key issues that will define the future of medicine and the role of the physician in the 21st century.

1. The Impact of Technology

Advances in medical technology have revolutionized the practice of medicine. From diagnostic imaging to minimally invasive surgery, technology has expanded the capabilities of the physician. However, it also presents challenges. The rapid pace of technological change requires continuous education and adaptation. The physician must remain at the forefront of medical innovation, leveraging technology to improve patient outcomes.

2. The Changing Demographics of the Patient Population

The patient population is becoming increasingly diverse in terms of age, race, and ethnicity. This diversity brings unique challenges to the physician. Understanding the cultural and social backgrounds of patients is essential for providing effective care. The physician must be able to communicate and collaborate with patients from different backgrounds, ensuring that care is tailored to the individual needs of each patient.

3. The Role of the Physician in a Team-Based Approach

The traditional model of the physician as the sole provider of care is being replaced by a team-based approach. Physicians are now part of a larger healthcare team that includes nurses, physician assistants, and other healthcare professionals. This collaborative approach allows for more comprehensive care and better patient outcomes. The physician's role is evolving from a sole provider to a leader and collaborator within the team.

4. The Importance of Preventive Medicine

Preventive medicine is becoming a central focus of the medical profession. The goal is to identify and address health issues before they become serious problems. This requires a shift in the physician's mindset from reactive to proactive. Physicians must spend more time on patient education, lifestyle counseling, and early detection of disease. Preventive care can significantly reduce the burden of chronic diseases and improve the overall health of the population.

5. The Role of the Physician in Public Health

Physicians are increasingly involved in public health efforts. They are working to address the social determinants of health, such as poverty, education, and access to healthcare. By advocating for policy changes and community-based interventions, physicians can play a crucial role in improving the health of the entire population. Public health is no longer just the domain of government agencies; it is a shared responsibility of the medical profession.

6. The Role of the Physician in Research and Innovation

Research and innovation are essential for advancing the medical profession. Physicians are increasingly involved in clinical research, contributing to the development of new treatments and diagnostic tools. They are also working to improve the quality of care through evidence-based medicine. The physician's role in research is critical for staying at the forefront of medical knowledge and ensuring that patients have access to the latest advancements in medicine.

7. The Role of the Physician in Patient Education

Patient education is a vital component of the physician's role. Patients need to be empowered to make informed decisions about their health. Physicians must take the time to educate patients on disease prevention, treatment options, and the importance of adherence. Patient education is not just a duty; it is a key to better health outcomes. By providing clear, understandable information, physicians can help patients take control of their health and live more active, healthier lives.

8. The Role of the Physician in Quality Improvement

Quality improvement is a continuous process that is essential for the medical profession. Physicians are working to identify areas for improvement in their practice and implementing changes to enhance the quality of care. This involves monitoring patient outcomes, gathering feedback from patients and staff, and using data to drive change. Quality improvement is not just a goal; it is a commitment to excellence in patient care.

